GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2454
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014
GEOCHEMICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL MAPPING
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the geochemical and geophysical mapping of the country have been achieved only to a limited extent;

(b) if so, the details of areas for which such mapping has been completed so far;

(c) whether the Government has asked the Geo-science Advisory Council to examine and recommend solutions to fast track the exploration activities for optimum utilisation of resources;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to formulate an action plan to complete geochemical and geophysical mapping of national resources in a time-bound manner?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. The total mappable area of the country is 31.46 lakh sq. km. As on March 31, 2014, GSI has completed 4.27 lakh sq. km. of Geochemical Mapping (GCM) and 2.35 lakh sq. km. of Geophysical Mapping (GPM).

(c) & (d) : The Geoscience Advisory Council (GAC) is a body to advise the Ministry of Mines on geoscientific policy matters in general and the role and direction of Geological Survey of India in particular. During the course of discussion in its meetings, the GAC takes up all aspects of geoscientific issues including exploration activities for optimum utilization of resources.

(e) : On the basis of geological mapping, GSI has identified an area where mineral potential is relatively high. This is called the Obvious Geological Potential (OGP) area which spreads over an area of 5.71 lakh sq.km. GSI has now planned to focus its GCM and GPM efforts on the prioritized areas within the OGP, called the core areas of OGP. Accordingly, GSI has planned to complete GCM in these areas preferably within two years and GPM within next four years, from April 2015.